



## Use Headlights Properly

You should dim (lower) your headlights when you are:

1. Within 500 feet of an approaching vehicle so as not to blind the driver.
2. When following closely (within 200 feet) behind another vehicle.
3. When driving on lighted roads.
4. When driving in rain, fog, snow, or smoke.
5. When vision is reduced to less than 200 feet.

Use bright lights only when driving in the open country, when other cars are not nearby. Even with the upper beam, speed must be slower than by day.

You must use your headlights between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise; at any time when it is raining; or when visibility is limited.

## Night Driving

Because of decreased vision at night and the glare of oncoming headlights, night driving is more demanding and requires greater concentration than daytime driving. Unfamiliar roads and unexpected situations are more likely to cause trouble. You can help ensure safe driving in several ways.

1. Make sure your headlights are working properly and the lens is kept clean. Periodically have them checked for correct aim.
2. Don't overdrive your headlights. Keep your speed within the range at which you can see the pavement ahead clearly enough to be able to make an emergency stop.
3. Slow down when meeting another vehicle or when nearing a curve if you are driving at or near the maximum posted speed limit.
4. Use the edgeline as a guide. If there is no edgeline, use the centerline to guide yourself.
5. Keep your windshield clean.
6. Stay awake and alert. More frequent stops, more fresh air, lively radio programs and similar measures can help you to avoid drowsiness and inattention. Do not drive if you are tired.
7. Watch carefully for highway signs; they are harder to see at night.
8. Be especially watchful for pedestrians and vehicles stopped along the edge of the road.
9. Do not stop on the roadway for any reason.



## Chapter 5 Safety Rules

Traffic laws alone cannot regulate every kind of a driving situation which may occur. There are some general rules which drivers should understand and follow. Read the following chapter with care, because someday these safety tips might help you avoid a serious accident or even save your life.

### Entering the Car

Develop a routine for entering the car safely and preparing to start out. Make it a practice to enter from the curb side of the vehicle. If this is not possible, wait until your entry can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with the traffic flow. Be prepared with your keys, as you approach the vehicle facing traffic. Adjust the seat, mirrors and check passengers to be sure they are properly seated and do not interfere with your driving. Before starting your ignition, buckle up and see that passengers do the same. After starting your vehicle, look back (don't depend on your rearview mirror), give the proper signal and move cautiously into the stream of traffic.

### Seat Belts

Georgia law states that each occupant of the front seat of a vehicle traveling on Georgia roads and highways must be secured by a seat safety belt. All occupants of any vehicle must utilize a seat belt if under the age of 18.

Statistics show that three out of four traffic deaths occur within 25 miles of the driver's home and four out of five crashes occur at speeds of less than 40 mph. Without belts, people have been killed at speeds as low as 12 mph.

Safety belts are needed because they are the most effective occupant protection in all types of vehicle crashes. Using safety belts correctly is a preventable health care habit that:

- helps you keep control of the vehicle.
- helps keep your head from striking the dash or windshield.
- helps keep people in the vehicle from hitting each other.
- helps spread the crash force across the stronger parts of the body.
- helps protect you from injury if you are hit by someone driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- helps keep you from being ejected from the vehicle.

Your lifetime chances of being in a crash are virtually 100%. You have a 50% chance of suffering a disabling injury, and one in 50 chances of being killed. When used correctly, safety belts are effective. Using lap shoulder belts cuts your chances of being killed or seriously injured in a crash by 40 to 50 percent. Safety belts reduce the risk of death by approximately 60 percent. Occupant protection laws are primary in Georgia, meaning officers may stop and cite violators without the presence of another violation.



No new private passenger automobile shall be sold to the general public in this state unless such automobile shall be equipped with two sets of safety belts for the front seat thereof. The safety belts may be installed by the manufacturer prior to delivery to the dealer, or they may be installed by the dealer.

Any person violating the above will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

### **Safety Restraints for Children Four Years of Age and Under**

Every driver, who regularly and customarily transports a child who is four years of age or younger in a passenger automobile, van, or pickup truck, other than one operated for hire, which is registered in this state, shall, while such motor vehicle is in motion and operated on a public road, street, or highway of this state, provide for the protection of such child in a child passenger restraining system approved by the United States Department of Transportation under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 in effect on January 1, 1983. The provisions of the above shall not apply to a nonresident transporting a child in this state and shall not apply when the child's personal needs are being attended to.

### **Steering**

Good posture at the steering wheel is important, for it results in better vision and control. When gripping the steering wheel, place your left hand at the 9 o'clock position and your right hand at the 3 o'clock position or evenly balanced on both sides of the wheel. Always keep both hands on the wheel, except when using one hand for some other driving task.

### **Making a Safe Turn**

1. Make up your mind before you get to the turning point. Never make a "last minute" turn – it is too dangerous.
2. Look behind and to both sides, to see where other vehicles may be, before you change lanes.
3. Move into the proper lane as soon as possible. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should do this.
4. Give the proper turn signal at an adequate distance before you make your turn. If using a hand signal, hold it until you are close enough to the intersection for others to know what you intend to do. Do not hold the signal while making the turn – you need both hands on the wheel.
5. Slow down to a reasonable turning speed.
6. Make the turn correctly. This will be easy if you are in the proper lane and proceeding carefully when you begin to turn.
7. Finish your turn in the proper lane.

### **Avoid These Turning Mistakes**

1. Turning from the wrong lane.
2. Last minute decisions to turn.
3. Turning into the wrong lane.



## Fog

The best rule for fog is to avoid driving, but if you must drive, there are some things which you can do to help prevent an accident.

1. Reduce speed sharply from your normal driving speed.
2. Reduce speed still more when you see headlights or red tail lights. The headlight may be on a vehicle which is being driven down the center of the pavement, and the car with the tail lights may be stopped on the road.
3. Dim your headlights; you will probably be able to see more clearly, as bright lights tend to glare.
4. Do not drive with parking lights only.

## Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning takes place when you are driving on wet roads. At speeds up to 35 mph, most tires will wipe the road clean the same as a windshield wiper cleans the windshield. As your speed increases, tires cannot wipe the road as well and start to ride up on a film of water, just like a set of water skis. In a standard passenger car, partial hydroplaning starts about 35 mph, and increases with speed to about 55 mph at which point the tires may be totally up on the water. If this is the case, there is no friction available to brake, accelerate, or corner. A gust of wind or a slight turn can create an unpredictable and uncontrollable skid. In this situation, the best thing to do is to take your foot off of the accelerator, letting the car slow down. To prevent hydroplaning, it is most helpful to have good tires with sufficient tread.

## Skidding

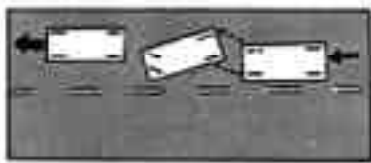
A car skids when its tires lose their grip on the road surface. When a car skids, both the power which the engine sends to the wheels and the braking effect are lost. The only thing you can do if you skid is try to bring your car back under control. There are two things which you must remember:

1. Look where you want the vehicle to go and steer towards it.
2. Avoid braking.

Also important in regaining control is reduced speed. As you start to gain control, you may safely slow the vehicle by very gently pressing and releasing the brake pedal. The best thing you can do to avoid skidding is to slow down when approaching possible danger spots, and be prepared. Do not accelerate, brake or change lanes when riding on slippery spots such as gravel and sand or oil slicks. If the wheels keep rolling freely at the same speed in a fairly straight line, you are not likely to skid.



CORRECT



Note direction front wheels are turned.

The first half-hour of rainfall is the most dangerous since roadways become extremely slippery due to the mixture of oil deposits and water on the road surfaces.

## Curves

Curves call for special attention by drivers. They can be quite dangerous whether the road surface is wet or dry. When it is raining, some types of curves require much lower speeds than when dry. **Drivers should slow down before entering any curve.**

Sharper curves are usually marked with a safe miles per-hour entering speed. If you are exceeding this speed as you approach the curve, slow down before entering, using the brake if necessary. In case you find that you have entered at excess speed, do not panic and jam on the brakes, as locked wheels will only cause you to skid. An experienced driver can usually maneuver safely in this kind of situation by careful application of brake and power.

## Running Off the Pavement

Serious accidents can be caused by running off the pavement. To avoid this, pay attention to your driving. If you should run off, or if you are forced off, there are certain things you can do which may save your life.

1. Don't panic.
2. Don't hit the brake pedal suddenly and hard; use your brakes carefully.
3. Grip the steering wheel tightly and be prepared to withstand sudden shocks.
4. Take your foot off the accelerator.
5. Don't try to swing back onto the pavement immediately. Wait until speed has reduced, check the traffic behind you, look for a place where you can get back onto the roadway and into traffic. When turning back onto the pavement your speed must be low enough to avoid crossing the center line into oncoming traffic lane or going completely across the roadway into the left-hand ditch.



## Blow-Out

If you know what to do and don't panic, you can keep control of your car and bring it safely to a stop when a tire blows out.

1. Apply brakes lightly.
2. Grasp the steering wheel firmly and take your foot off the accelerator to allow the vehicle to roll to a halt.
3. Don't turn onto the shoulder of the road until the car is almost stopped. If the blow-out should cause the car to swerve on to the shoulder, do not try to get back on the pavement. Let the car coast to a stop.

## Winter Driving

Most people realize that driving in winter is more dangerous than at any other time of the year due to hazardous weather conditions. Few know what to do about it. Here are several suggestions:

1. Use chains or snow tires.
2. Keep windows clear. Remove snow and ice before you drive.
3. Get the feel of the roadway. Start out very slowly. Test your brakes gently. Slow down gradually before you come to an intersection, turn or stop.
4. Keep a safe distance between you and other vehicles.
5. Reduce speed according to conditions.
6. Watch for danger spots ahead.

## Following Too Closely

Most rear-end collisions are caused by following too closely. When following another vehicle on any street or highway, you must stay far enough behind to enable you to stop if the other vehicle suddenly slows down or stops. Watch the car ahead of you: when it passes some reference point, such as a telephone pole, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two". If you pass the same spot before you are through counting, you are following too closely. Always add additional seconds for other hazards such as inclement weather.

## Carbon Monoxide

Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Cars produce carbon monoxide which is a deadly odorless and colorless gas. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are sudden weariness, yawning, dizziness, and nausea. Simple precautions to avoid carbon monoxide are:

1. Don't leave the motor running in a garage.



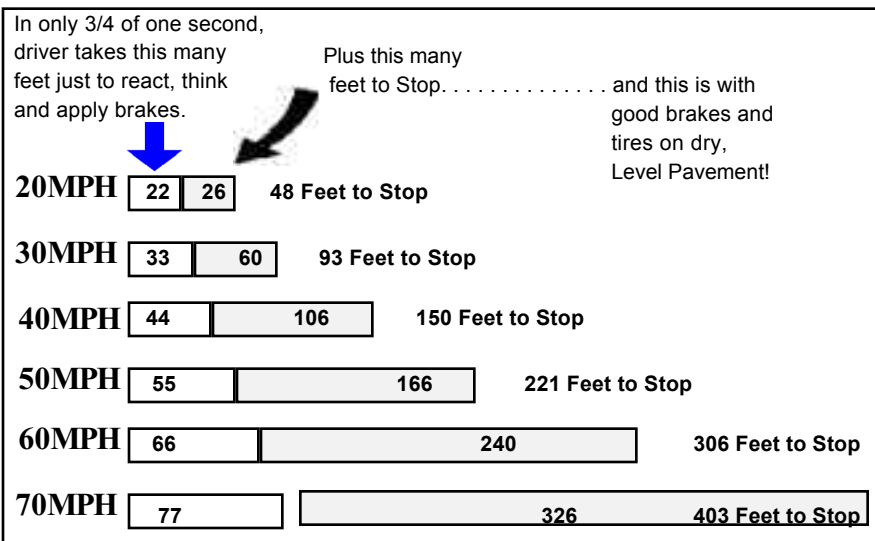
2. Don't leave the motor running and the window closed while the car is parked.
3. Don't operate the heater or air conditioner in a parked car with the windows closed.
4. Don't drive with a defective muffler or exhaust system.
5. Move a victim of carbon monoxide to fresh air and give artificial respiration.

## Stopping Distance

The distance in which you can stop your car is important in determining a safe driving speed. This chart may be used as a guide, but actual stopping distance depends upon many factors.

1. Mental and physical reaction of the driver.
2. Type and condition of the pavement.
3. Kind of tires and tread composition.
4. Chassis (frame) design.
5. Type of brakes, condition, and balance of brakes.

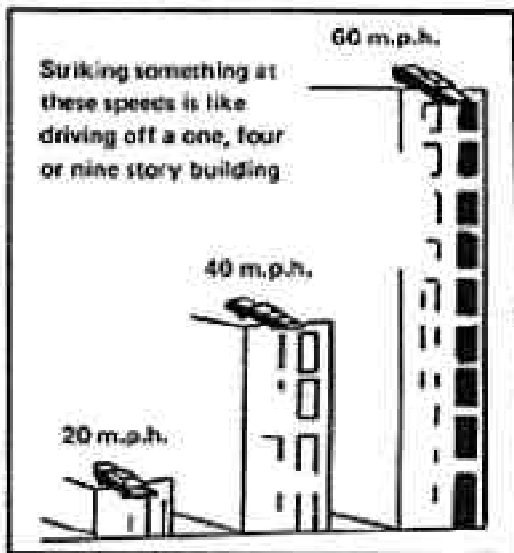
## Stopping Ability of Standard Passenger Cars on a Dry, Clean, Level Pavement





## Force of Impact

Force of impact is the force when objects meet. Speed is very important in a collision because if you double the speed of a car, you increase its force of impact four times. If you triple the speed, the impact is nine times as great.

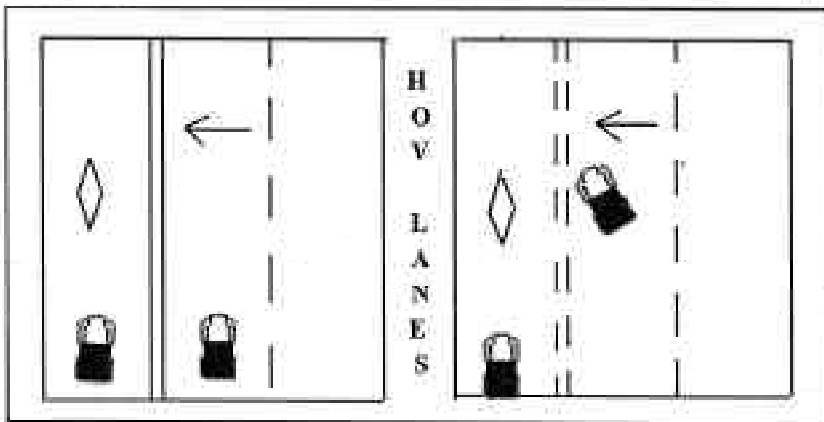


## EXPRESSWAY DRIVING

The basic feature of an expressway is that access to it is controlled or “planned”. One can only get on or off at specific places known as interchanges. Some multiple-lane roads are free while others require toll, but they all have several important advantages. If you know how to use them properly, you can get to your destination quicker, easier, and safer.

Double White Line (No Entry)

Dashed White Line (You May Enter)



High Occupancy Vehicle lanes (HOV) are travel lanes that are restricted to vehicles with more than one occupant, buses and motorcycles. The lanes are marked with a diamond symbol and the hours of restriction are posted. The penalty for driving in the HOV lane with no one else in the vehicle is a fine up to \$75 for first offense; up to \$100 for second offense; up to \$150 for third offense; and up to \$150 fine plus one point added to the violator's driving record for the fourth or subsequent offense.

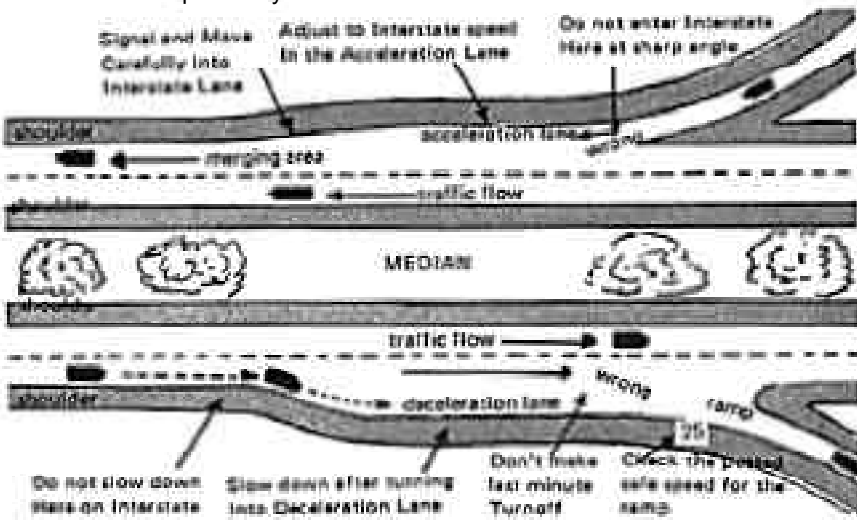






## Entering Expressways

The entrance ramp is a short one-way road that leads to the expressway. From the entrance ramp, you should move onto the acceleration lane. This is the lane that runs along side the main roadway. On the acceleration lane, you can pace your speed to the speed of the expressway traffic. When you find a large enough gap between vehicles, you should move into the gap as smoothly as possible. **Vehicles on the expressway have the right of way**, but courteous drivers will permit you to move into the expressway traffic.



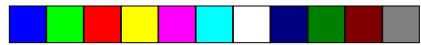
## Exiting Expressway

Get into the right-hand lane well before reaching an exit on the right, or get into a left-hand lane for an exit on the left. Guide signs will tell you of the approaching exit. At the exit, deceleration lanes are provided for slowing down when leaving the expressway. Posted exit speeds are usually low, due to the design of the roadway. You will find yourself in serious trouble if you enter the ramp from the deceleration lane at the expressway speed. Do not slow down on the expressway itself under normal conditions.

## Crossing Gore (Georgia Code 40-6-50)

(a) The term "gore" means the area of convergence between two lanes of traffic.

(b) Every vehicle driven on a divided highway shall be driven only upon the right-hand roadway unless directed or permitted to use another roadway by official traffic-control devices or police officers. No vehicle shall be driven over, across, or within any dividing space, barrier, gore, paved shoulder, or section separating the roadways of a divided highway; except that a vehicle may be driven through an opening in such physical barrier or dividing space or at an established crossover or intersection unless specifically prohibited by an official sign, signal, or control device. No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled-access roadway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority. No vehicle shall be driven in an emergency lane except in the event of an actual emergency.



## Tips For Expressway Driving

**Plan Your Trip Carefully:** Mark the map to indicate all entrances, service areas, and exits you plan to use. Doing these things will help you to have a safe, fast, and pleasant journey.

**Check Your Car Before You Start:** Since expressways are designed for faster and smoother flowing traffic, there are fewer places to exit. It is very important to check your gasoline gauge and make sure you have enough fuel. Check also the water, oil, and tires of your vehicle.

**Be Alert:** Use your rearview mirror and side mirror to constantly check the traffic behind you. Always make visual traffic checks before you change lanes.

**Stay Out of Another Driver's Blind Spot:** Traveling in a position where the driver ahead of you cannot observe your vehicle in the rearview mirrors is a dangerous practice; the driver might pull out in front of you to pass a car. Either stay far enough behind so that the other driver can see you, or pass the vehicle.

**Use Turn Signals:** Be sure to flash right or left turn signal whenever you change lanes.

**Allow Plenty of Room When Passing:** Cutting back into the right-hand lane too soon is one of the major causes of expressway collisions. Therefore, be sure to allow enough space when passing. Carefully check the left lane behind you before pulling out to pass. Don't pull back into the right-hand lane until you can see the car that you just passed clearly in your rearview mirror.

**Driving Too Slowly:** The slowest speed you may normally travel on an expressway is 40 miles per hour. Sometimes, especially when the weather is good and traffic is light, even this can be too slow.

**Rush Hour Driving:** This is sometimes a very frustrating type of driving. One little "fender-bender" accident can clog the expressway for miles. When traveling by an accident scene, don't stop or slow down to a crawl to see what is happening. Often, curiosity seekers are the biggest offenders in clogging rush hour traffic. Always try to be courteous to the driving public.

**Don't Back Up:** Backing up on an expressway is prohibited under any circumstances.

**Stopping:** Stopping on the expressway is prohibited. You will find service areas and rest signs at frequent intervals; use them. Stopping on the roadway shoulder is permitted only in an emergency. If it is necessary to stop, raise the hood to indicate difficulty. Don't walk along the expressway in search of help.